

The Free Press.

W. & G. G. BENEDICT.
Editors and Proprietors.

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The Act for enrolling and calling out the National Forces, and for other purposes.

We give below an epitome of the above named important Act. From the technicalities and legal wording necessary to insure precision in the administration of the act, it will enable our readers to understand its provisions with ease.

The preamble sets forth the existence of the rebellion and the duty of the Government to suppress it, to guarantee to each State a republican form of government, and to preserve the public tranquility—that for these purposes a military force is necessary, to raise and support which all persons ought willingly to contribute.

Section 1 provides for the enrollment of all able-bodied citizens of the United States between the ages of 20 and 45—including persons of foreign birth, who have declared their intentions to become citizens of the United States and have exercised the right of suffrage in any State—except under the act excepted.

Section 2 exempts such persons as are mentally and physically unfit for military duty; the President, Judges, and Heads of Departments, and Governors of the several States; the only son of a widow dependent upon his labor for support; the only son of aged or infirm parent or parents dependent upon his labor for support; also, where there are two or more sons of aged or infirm parents subject to draft, his father, or if he be dead, the mother may elect which son shall be exempt; also, the only brother of children not twelve years old, having neither father nor mother, and dependent upon his labor for support; also, the father of motherless children under twelve years of age, dependent upon his labor for support; also, where there are a father and son in the same family and household, and two of them are in the military service of the United States as non-commissioned officers, musicians, or privates, the residue of such family and household not exceeding two; but no person who has been convicted of any felony shall be allowed to serve.

Section 3. Persons subject to draft, to be divided into two classes; those between 20 and 25 to be called on first, and then all between 25 and 45. (Unmarried men between 20 and 45 are in the first class.) Those of the 21st class are not to be called out till those of the first class have been called.

Section 4. Divides the country into districts for the purpose of enrolling and calling out the national forces. Each Congressional District to be a district. The District of Columbia to be one; each Territory to be one or more as the President may direct.

Section 5. Promotes Marshals, with the rank and pay of captain, to be appointed by the President for each district, and a Provost Marshal General, to have rank and pay as Colonel, to be appointed, his office to be at Washington.

Section 6. Promotes the various duties of the Provost Marshal General, such as to make rules for his subordinates, under approval of the Secretary of War, furnish returns and residence of deserters and communicate orders in reference to calling out the national forces, furnish lists, make up conscript lists, and his accounts, &c.

Section 7. Describes and gives to be tried at the nearest military post, with the last paroleable day.

Section 8. Provides for a Board of Examiners in each district, to consist of the Provost Marshal and two others, to be appointed by the President, one of whom to be a licensed and practicing physician and surgeon.

Section 9. Provides for the subdivision of military districts into smaller districts, if necessary.

Section 10. The enrollment of each class to be made separately and to continue those whose ages call on the first day of July thereafter, between 20 and 45 years of age.

Section 11. Enrolled persons to be subject for two years after the said first day of July to be called into the service, and to continue in it for three years, or during the rebellion, or the same lasting as volunteers—including advanced pay and bounty.

Section 12. Empowers the President to assign the number of men for each district and prescribes the mode of draft. Persons whose names are drawn, to be notified within ten days thereafter. In fixing the quota, the number of volunteers already furnished by the respective districts is to be taken into consideration—with a view to equalization, as far as practicable.

Section 13. Drafted men may furnish a substitute, or pay in lieu of military service, a sum not exceeding \$500. Persons failing to report, or furnish a substitute after due notice, are to be treated as deserters.

Section 14. Drafted men must be examined by surgeons.

Section 15. Surgeons taking notes, or neglecting to make true and correct report, to be court-martialed, and liable to heavy fine and imprisonment, and be cashiered and dismissed from the service.

Section 16. Provides that drafted men shall be allowed travelling pay from their residence to the rendezvous; also provides for all expenses of enrollment, arrest and return of deserters, &c., &c.

Section 17. Provides that a substitute shall be entitled to the same pay as if he had been originally drafted, and the person for whom he is a substitute shall be held exempt for the time for which he was drafted.

Section 18. Volunteers and marines now in the service, are entitled, on re-enlisting for one year, to a bounty of \$50; one half to be paid down. Those who re-enlist for two years, shall be entitled to bounty money provided for in the act of July 22, 1861.

Section 19 and 20. Provide for the conscription of volunteer regiments when reduced to half the maximum number allowed by law and a limitation of the number of regimental officers in such cases.

Sec. 21. Repeals the law requiring the approval of the President to the sentence of a court-martial against any person convicted as spy or deserter or mutiny or murderer. Hereafter sentences in such cases to be carried into effect under approval of the commanding general in the field.

Sec. 22. Forbids soldiers to sell, barter, loan, or give away any clothes, arms, or other outfit provided them, and allows such articles to be seized and delivered over to a U. S. Quartermaster or other proper officer.

Sec. 23. Prescribes fines and imprisonment for persons enticing men to desert, or for concealing deserters or helping to transport them away, or for purchasing from a soldier any of his arms or equipments. Fine not over \$500, or imprisonment from six months to two years.

Sec. 24. Persons resisting or obstructing a draft, counselling or persuading any person not to appear or to fail of doing duty as a soldier according to law, are liable to fine or imprisonment or both, as above.

Sec. 25. Directs the President to issue proclamation ordering all soldiers absent without leave to return within a specified time, on such places as he shall direct, without punishment except loss of pay and allowance during absence. Those who do not return to be treated as deserters.

Sec. 26. Provides that in time of war, insurrection, or rebellion, murder, assault and battery, with an intent to kill, manslaughter, mayhem, ransoming by shooting or stabbing, with an intent to commit murder, robbery, arson, burglary, rape, sexual violence, battery, with an intent to commit rape, and battery, shall be punished by the sentence of a general Court-Martial or Military Commission, when committed by persons who are in the military service of the United States, and subject to the articles of war; and the punishments for such offences shall never be less than those indicated by the laws of the State, Territory, or district in which they have been committed.

Sec. 27, 28, 29. Present rules for admission of evidence, powers of the Judge Advocate, &c., continuance of trial, &c. short time, &c.

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Sec. 31. Officers absent without leave, except from sickness or wound, to have only half pay and allowance for the time; when absent without leave, to have no pay or allowance, besides being liable to court-martial.

Sec. 32. Makes allowance for full pay, not exceeding 30 days, for 5 per cent. of the non-commissioned officers and privates. The remaining six per cent. of the act, gives the President full power, during the rebellion, to call out the national forces in accordance with the act, regulate the assignment of drafted men to different regiments; provide that enlisted men, detailed to special service shall not receive extra pay; repeal General Orders of the War Department Nos. 124 and 152 in reference to enlistments; fix the composition of certain grades in cavalry, and provide that during the war of rebellion all persons who shall be found loitering or acting as spies, or in any way aid the rebellion, shall be treated as such.

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New Hampshire Election.

We have not sufficient returns from New Hampshire Election, to justify a mere conclusion as to the election of Governor. The vote from 100 towns or more reported Wednesday morning indicated no election by the people; they giving for Ellsworth, 15,549; for Eastman, 15,000; and for Harriman, 15,000.

The Republican majority in Senate and House insures the election of Ellsworth, if the election goes to the Legislature. Two out of three Members of Congress elected, are reported Republicans, the election of the third is yet doubtful.

The last report that of Thursday morning, is more favorable for the election of Eastman, but the result is still in doubt.

We notice in the New Orleans Era of the 25th, which paper succeeds to the Delta, suppressed by Gen. Banks' order—an article commensurate of Mr. George S. Denton, appointed under the late Governor of Louisiana, and acting as collector of Customs of that port, and now appointed Special Agent and acting collector of Internal Revenue. The commendation of the Era, we are sure, from our own personal knowledge of the gentleman, are fully deserved. The article is worthy of perusal, giving, not only a correct view of the entanglements which the capture of the rebel at New Orleans brought upon the administration of business there, but of the difficulties encountered in administering them with ability and fidelity of the government.

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